

November 22, 2013

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to express our opposition to the U.S. Postal Service's proposed exigent postal rate increase for January 2014.

Sacred Heart Southern Missions is a faith-based organization, serving five counties in northwest Mississippi. We provide a broad range of economic relief solutions and social support to DeSoto, Tate, Tunica, Marshall and Benton Counties.

When officials look at numbers and say, "it's only a few percent...that is pennies on the dollar", they should understand what kind of impact pennies have. We are a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of a great many donors to keep our mission of social justice and help for those in need alive. It takes thousands of these contributors who, for the most part send in \$13 or less at a time, to make this mission possible. If this postal increase goes through, we will have to cut out more than one million mail pieces....one million opportunities to get those much needed dollars in the hands of those who so desperately need it.

At a time when expenses are going up for basic goods and services, Congress is actively cutting and will continue to cut social program funding. This creates more stress on the at-risk families and their resources, as well as the organizations, like Sacred Heart Southern Missions, that are trying to be of assistance. Compounded with the postal increase, the devastation will be far reaching.

If this postal increase is approved, it will be equal to two-thirds of our direct assistance budget for the entire year. Would you be able to look just one of these people in the face and tell them that they cannot eat this week because of your increase in postal rates. How about looking at 20,000 of them with that news. Or how about telling two out of every three people that come in the door for direct assistance, that due to a postal increase, sorry, we can't help you keep your lights on, get your medications, give you a warm coat to wear or fend off foreclosure for another month. Who will help these people? For most of them, we are their last hope.

As you can see, mail is the lifeline for the thousands of people we help each year. It must remain affordable so that we can continue helping those less fortunate.

Yours In Christ,

Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ
Executive Director
Sacred Heart Southern Missions

CC: Postal Regulatory Commission
/enclosure